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Glossary of Cellular Terms

By phonedog, posted Jan 25, 06 12:00 AM / 93037 views - 0 comments - 0 tweets

Advanced Mobile Phone Service: AMPS represents the original technology system used for wireless networks. It is currently only being utilized by Nextel.

Air Interface: Is the operating system of a wireless network. Technologies include AMPS, TDMA, CDMA, GSM and iDEN.

Airtime: The amount of time a person spends talking on their cellular device. Most major U.S. service providers bill airtime by minutes used on a monthly basis.

Analog: The traditional method of adapting radio signals so they can carry information. **AM** (Amplitude Modulation) and **FM** (Frequency Modulation) are the two most common analog systems. Analog has largely been replaced by digital technologies, which are more secure, more efficient and provide better quality.

Android: When Google joined the cellular phone market, they created Android, their first smartphone operating system (OS). Based on Linux, the Android OS promises power, flexibility, and extensibility. HTC was the first to introduce a device that will run the Android OS, the G1. Android is not only an OS but a software platform. This gives all cellular manufacturers the ability to build new device that can use Android. The Android platform is completely open-source, allowing any developer to tap into its full power and create some pretty cool apps.

Antenna: A device consisting of a set of wires that is used for transmitting and receiving radio waves. You extend or retract a retractable antenna when you are using the phone and "retract" it when you're done with the call. Fixed-length antennas and internal antennas require no action on the part of the user. There are no significant reception benefits or advantages to one antenna type over another; antenna choice is more a matter of personal preference.

Base Station: Is the central radio transmitter/receiver that communicates with mobile telephones within a given range, typically a cell site.

Basic Trading Area (BTA): A geographic area designed by Rand McNally to reflect business centers. The BTA layout was adopted by the FCC for the licensing of Personal Communications Services and some other wireless services. A BTA includes several neighboring counties that are associated by business and commuting patterns. The United States and some of its territories are divided into 493 BTAs.

Bluetooth: Radio technology that enables devices such as computers, mobile phones and hands-free kits to be connected without cables up to 30 feet away. Bluetooth technology provides complete wireless mobility.

Bonded copper: Aggregating DSL circuits together to boost throughput.

BREW: Binary Runtime Environment for Wireless, BREWTM, developed by Qualcomm, is a service application developer's platform. BREWTM technology gives developers the ability to enable numerous applications for users to download wirelessly from any BREWTM-enabled handset. These handsets are able to download, install and run a variety of entertaining, informative and productive applications.

Broadband: A term used when describing the bandwidth or capacity needed to carry multiple voice, video or data channels simultaneously. Broadband technology was introduced to help deliver increased amounts of speeds and advanced capabilities. These advancements now give consumers better access to the Internet, related services, and facilities.

Carrier: Also known as service provider or operator, a carrier is the communications company that provides customers service (including air time) for their wireless phones.

Carrier: The provider responsible for all of your wireless services i.e. Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Alltel, Sprint and many others. The Carrier provides the customer the means of making a call by establishing a network of cell towers which transmit calls through the various telephone networks throughout the world. The carrier is responsible for all facets of your service including customer service and billing. While Carriers often sell the physical phone, separate companies such as Nokia, Motorola, LG and others actually manufacture the phone and provide product warranties.

CDMA: Code Division Multiple Access better known in the cellular world as CDMA is a technology that is used to transmit wireless calls. To transmit the call, CDMA technology assigns codes and spreads the calls out over the widest range of available channels. The codes allow many calls to travel on the same frequency and also direct each person's call to the proper phone number dialed.

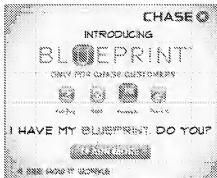
CDMA2000 1XRTT: The first step in the evolution to 3G is cdma2000 1X, which improves packet data transmission capabilities and speeds in the network, and also boosts voice capacity (1X, which improves up to 307 kbps.)

CDMA2000 1XEV-DO: (Evolution Data-Only). CDMA2000 1XEV represents the second step in the evolution of CDMA2000. Commercially launched in 2001, offers data speeds of up to 2.4 Mbps.

CDMA2000 1XEV-DV: (Evolution Data-Voice). CDMA2000 1XEV represents the next step in the evolution of CDMA2000. CDMA2000 was approved by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a standards body based in Geneva, as a 3G technology to provide data and voice services together, with data rates of up to 3.09 Mbps.

Cell: The basic geographic unit of wireless coverage. Short for cellular, a cell is used to break down a city's wireless network into smaller sections. A region is divided into smaller "cells," each equipped with a low-powered radio transmitter/receiver. The radio frequencies assigned to one cell can be limited to the boundaries of that cell. As a

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To make your task a little easier, here are some tools to help

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» Cell Phone Plan Finder

Filter plans by carrier, minutes included, calling features and much more

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